

**Government Listening To Indian Community - Palanivel  
Bernama  
October 25, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel said the Indian community would celebrate the festival of lights with the assurance that the government was listening and would continue to assist them in the transformation process.

Palanivel who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said the government under the leadership of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had been very supportive of the Indian community's requests and had been very accommodating.

"The government has extended much assistance to date where some have been implemented and others will be put in place soon.

"I am confident that the Indian community is on the right track and will continue to progress if they stay united," he said in his Deepavali message, here, Monday. Deepavali will be celebrated this Wednesday.

He said harmony among the races in the country must also be maintained at all costs and people should avoid playing up issues considered sensitive.

Palanivel said in the spirit of 1Malaysia, he was sure that the Indian community along with other Malaysians would work together for the continued progress and success of the nation.

He also assured the Indians that the outlook for the community looked bright with the various projects such as the Economic Transformation Programme and Government Transformation Programme introduced by the government.

"These programmes are inclusive and the Indians will be able to tap into the programmes to raise their socio-economic standing," he said.

However, he reminded Malaysians to celebrate Deepavali in moderation and that their thoughts and prayers should also go to the less fortunate and all who faced hardship.

"Let us come together to lend a helping hand to all those who are facing great difficulties," he added.

He called on other Malaysians to join the Hindus in celebrating the festival of lights and make it a joyous occasion.

Palanivel also extended his invitation to all to join him and his committee members at the MIC's Deepavali open house to be held at Batu Caves from 9am to 1pm on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk Seri M.Kayveas said the racial interaction during visits to Hindu homes during Deepavali would not only strengthen friendship and unity, but also cultural and religious understanding.

"With that, there will be no prejudices and suspicions that can bring up apart," he said in his

Deepavali message.

Malaysia's special envoy to India and South Asia, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, also called on the other communities to join the Hindus in celebrating Deepavali with greater determination to preserve peace and stability in the country.

The former MIC president said the situation could only prevail if the people were also solidly behind the government in meeting the national aspirations.

He said the transformation process mooted by the prime minister had changed the people's ways, making Malaysia more competitive and resilient in a changing world.

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